

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



TONI ATKINS
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NEWS RELEASE

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Councilmember Atkins Appointed To San Diego River Conservancy

SAN DIEGO—Third District City Councilmember Toni Atkins was recently appointed by California Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson to serve on the newly formed San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC). The SDRC was created by Assembly Bill 2156, which was authored by San Diego Assemblymember Christine Kehoe (76th District).

The conservancy will oversee the environmentally sensitive land, water and wetlands of the San Diego River, which runs for 52 miles from its headwaters near the town of Julian in east San Diego County, through Mission Valley, before it empties into the Pacific Ocean at Ocean Beach. The river has been subjected to intense development in some parts; it runs through one of San Diego's most populated neighborhoods and is in need of restoration, scientific research, and educational and cultural activities. The SDRC will coordinate state funding to address these needs.

"I'm honored that Speaker Wesson has confidence in my ability to help revive this valuable public resource," said Councilmember Atkins. "I'm excited to be a part of the conservancy and look forward to advocating for the preservation of the river while working to enhance it for the public's enjoyment."

Specifically, the SDRC was formed to acquire and manage public lands within the San Diego River area, and to provide recreational opportunities, open space, wildlife habitat and species restoration and protection, wetland protection and restoration, and

protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters in the San Diego River for all beneficial uses. It was also formed to preserve land for educational uses within the area, and to protect natural floodwater conveyance.

"When I was in the process of creating the San Diego River Conservancy, I knew that when it came time to determine who would actually be on the conservancy, local representation would be imperative," said Assemblymember Kehoe. "Councilmember Toni Atkins has a proven track record of protecting San Diego's natural resources, and I know she'll do a great job."

Councilmember Atkins will be one of nine voting members on the governing board of the SDRC, which will also have two non-voting members.

"Toni's years of serving San Diego have given her the experience and tenacity needed to make the conservancy a success," Kehoe said. "This is a considerable job that will take the efforts of many. I know that Toni will do what it takes to get the conservancy off to a successful start."

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